



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

March 10, 2016

Eileen Sobeck,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Hwy, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the obligatory Mississippi seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) currently held by Ms. Leanne Bosarge. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Mississippi, would like to nominate the following three individuals to the obligatory seat to be filled August 11, 2016: Leanne Bosarge, Harvey S. "Sonny" Schindler and J. Read Hendon.

After reviewing the education, experience, and background of each of the nominated individuals and consulting with appropriate representatives of the environmental community, the recreational, the commercial, and the for-hire charter segments of the fisheries, I feel each of these individuals meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. More importantly, their qualifications identify them, not only as efficient stewards of fisheries resources, but also as individuals prepared to meet the task of attaining the desired management goals of the Regional Fisheries Management Councils.

Ms. Bosarge has been a valuable member of the Gulf Council. Based on qualifications and a great job performance, I highly recommend that Ms. Bosarge be reappointed to continue her service on the Gulf Council. Ms. Leann Bosarge has over 15 years in the commercial fishing business and additional experience in the banking and auditing industry. She is also a member of the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

Mr. Harvey S. "Sonny" Schindler has been engaged in the charter-for-hire industry for over 13 years. He is the owner and operator of one of the largest charter for hire business on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and serves on several advisory panels of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. He actively attends federal and state fisheries management meetings, participates in education programs and writes articles for outdoor magazines.

Mr. J. Read Hendon, Ph.D. has professional experience as a fishery biologist for over 20 years and currently serves interim Assistant Director for the University of Southern-Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and as Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. He has served on the Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum advisory panels of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Of the nominees presented here, the potential success of their placement, if selected, was determined through the following preliminary consultations with individuals in the Gulf Coast's commercial, recreational and for-hire charter fishing, and environmental community. The following organizations were consulted: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Coastal Conservation Association, Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association, Southern Shrimp Alliance, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Mississippi Charter for Hire Task Force and other knowledgeable individuals including commercial, charter, and recreational fisherman.

I have provided written statements and the nominees' application kits for their consideration.

Sincerely,



Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi

Cc: Jamie Miller